

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01 OMB-01
TRSE-00 HA-05 SY-05 /085 W
-----014366 281741Z /72

O R 281655Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7013
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 604

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: ASSASSINATION OF CLEMENS KAPUUO

REF: CAPE TOWN 597,

1. CHIEF CLEMENS KAPUUO, PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC
TURNHALLE ALLIANCE AND CHIEF OF THE HEREROS, DIED IN A
HOSPITAL IN WINDHOEK THE NIGHT OF MARCH 27 AFTER BEING
GUNNED DOWN BY TWO ASSASSINS. ACCORDING TO PRESS
ACCOUNTS, SEVERAL BULLETS FROM A RUSSIAN-MADE TOKAREV
PISTOL WERE FIRED INTO HIS BODY FROM CLOSE RANGE AS HE
LEFT THE BACK OF HIS SHOP IN KATATURA TOWNSHIP ON THE
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OUTSKIRTS OF WINDHOEK.

2. WINDHOEK SOURCES TELL US THAT THE WEAPON WAS
IDENTIFIED BY POLICE AS A TOKAREV THROUGH EXAMINATION
OF SPENT CARTRIDGES FOUND AT THE SCENE, AND BY THE NATURE OF
THE WOUNDS, WHICH WERE REPORTEDLY CAUSED BY A LOW
VELOCITY FIREARM SUCH AS A TOKAREV.

3. TWO MEMBERS OF THE CHIEF'S BODYGUARD WERE WOUNDED WHEN THE ASSASSINS OPENED UP THROUGH A GATE IN A WALL SURROUNDING THE BACK OF THE CHIEF'S PROPERTY. POLICE REINFORCEMENTS WERE REPORTEDLY RUSHED TO THE TOWNSHIP BUT THE TWO GUNMEN ESCAPED FROM THE SCENE. ACCORDING TO A CAPE TIMES REPORTER, KATUTURA WAS TENSE. THE REPORTED OBSERVED ABOUT 100 HEREROS ARMED WITH STICKS, PANGAS AND OTHER WEAPONS STANDING NEAR KAPUUNO'S SHOP IN A SOMBRE MOOD, WHILE OVAMBOS IN A NEARBY HOSTEL COULD BE HEARD SINGING AND SHOUTING POWER SLOGANS. THERE WAS ONE MINOR INCIDENT REPORTED IN KATUTURA THE NIGHT OF MARCH 27, IN WHICH A GROUP OF HEREROS OVERTURNED A CAR, AND BEAT ITS OVAMBO DRIVER. MOST MEMBERS OF KATUTURA'S HERERO COMMUNITY DID NOT REPORT FOR WORK ON MARCH 28. AS OF MID-MORNING MARCH 28, NO ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

4. ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL STEYN, DIRK MUDGE, CHAIRMAN OF THE DTA, AND HERERO LEADERS MADE APPEALS LAST NIGHT FOR THE HERERO COMMUNITY TO REMAIN CALM AND TO WITHHOLD ANY RETALIATORY ACTION AGAINST ANY PERSON OR POLITICAL GROUP.

5. COMMENT: WHILE THE PRESS IS MAKING A CLEAR ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SWAPO AND THE ASSASSINATION AND BRAND FOURIE HAS DONE THE SAME IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH ME AND SIR DAVID SCOTT, THE GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS HAS CONFIDENTIAL

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BEEN CAREFUL TO AVOID ASSIGNING SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITY TO SWAPO. WE BELIEVE THIS CAUTION IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT THEY DO NOT YET HAVE HARD EVIDENCE ON WHO COMMITTED THE MURDER.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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Litigation History:
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